

From: Chris Cooney
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have to say that the proposed segment is a joke in poor taste, and we are all the butt of it. First of all, the proposed amount is staggering low for Microsoft - they made \$770M in interest in 1999 (give or take), so if this were a straight fine, it would amount to a year and a half worth of interest. To put that in perspective, a year and a half of interest on my accounts runs about \$20.

It gets worse. Microsoft gets to use that money to flood public schools - one of the last bastions of Apple, their only credible direct competitor. further, it looks like they can count the retail price of their software in the 1.1 billion. this means that they spend \$200M on hardware and about \$100M on software (retail value \$900M), take a hefty deduction on taxes and possibly make money on the deal.

Never mind that this does nothing to even slow their rapacious assault on the industry; note the common fate of a Microsoft competitor is to be buried under piles of cash, find their lead developers are suddenly working for Bill Gates, or find that Microsoft is making something equivalent to their product and giving it away. Ask a venture capitalist how many companies they ever funded that competed with Microsoft. You won't find many.

I'm not exactly sure what needs to be done, but it needs to be far closer to Jackson's breakup order than this. Microsoft is killing the industry and stifling innovation.

-chris